

Frequently Asked Questions by Parents 2021-2022

Indian River High School

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Where should my child report the first day of school?

Students should report to first block of Semester 1 (A day if the student is in an alternate day class). Students who are 100% Chesapeake Virtual Academy (CVA) online should stay home. Students who are taking some CVA classes and some in person classes should report to the designated first block class on the schedule unless it is a CVA class for the first block and the student is coming to school after that class.

What should my child bring the first day of school?

Students should bring a pen or pencil, a notebook, and lunch or lunch money. Please be advised that lunch lines are longer the first week of school, so students may want to bring a packed lunch the first couple of days. Students should also dress appropriately (no holes in jeans above the knee; all clothes should NOT reveal too much bare skin; no clothing with profanity or violent themes; undergarments should not be visible).

What is the bell schedule?

Bell 1 - 8:55 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Bell 3 - 12:10 p.m. - 2:20 p.m. (30 minute lunch included)

Bell 2 - 10:35 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.

Bell 4 - 2:25 p.m. - 3:53 p.m.

What lunch will my son/daughter eat?

Lunch assignments are based on students' third bell classes. Lunches will be assigned the first day of school. Schedule changes will not be made for lunch bell requests (unless there is medical documentation).

How many classes is my child taking this year?

On a four by four block schedule, students can take 8 classes and earn 8 credits this year. Each student will take four classes during the first semester (September - January) and four classes during the second semester (February - June). At the end of each semester, students will earn 1 credit for each passed.

My child received his schedule and we want to make a schedule change. How can we do that?

All course request changes were due March 2021. If a student wants to make a schedule change request, he/she can go to the IRHS website and fill out the Schedule Change Request Form located on the Guidance main page. You can also click on this link to request a schedule change <https://forms.gle/UcHENwfKwKxMNwyi9> Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis and will only be honored for academic reasons or if there is an error on the schedule. IRHS does not make schedule changes for: lunch requests, certain teachers, or to have certain classes a specific block or a specific semester.

Can parent/teacher conferences be scheduled at the high school?

Yes. If you are concerned about your child's class(es), you can e-mail the counselor assigned to your student to schedule a meeting. By making an appointment, you can be assured the counselor and/or teacher(s) will be available. If you show up without an appointment, you may have to wait or schedule an appointment at a later date. Parent/Teacher conferences are usually held at 8:30 a.m. or 3:55 p.m.; meetings with just the counselor can be set for anytime during the school day as long as it convenient for all parties.

How can my child get in touch with the counselor?

We highly encourage parents/guardians and students to contact the assigned School Counselor by using e-mail. Students can also put notes in the counselors' boxes located in Guidance. Your child's assigned counselor will get back to him/her as quickly as possible.

When should I be concerned about my child's grades?

Be active and supportive in your child's academic career to ensure his/her success. If your child complains (more than normal) about school, make an appointment to see the School Counselor. Check Synergy frequently (www.cpschools.com) and check for report cards about once a month. They are issued through StudentVue and ParentVue.

When are report cards available in ParentVue/StudentVue?

The end of the first semester quarters are as follows: Oct 6, Nov 5, Dec 13, and Jan 28. Report cards are made available usually 1 ½ weeks after these dates.

How do I know if my child is promoted from one grade to the next?

In Chesapeake, students are promoted from one grade level to the next according to the number of credits they earn. A student needs 5 credits to be considered a sophomore, 10 credits to be considered a junior, and 16 credits to be a senior. The student should also be in the correct 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year of high school (the correct year that matches the grade level).

If my child is sick, do I need to call the school that day?

No, please do not call school. The parent/guardian must submit the absence via ParentVue under the "report an absence" tab and upload any notes directly through ParentVue. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the CPS website or Click [HERE](#) for a video regarding more information and to access specific instructions.

If my child is sick, can the school provide the missed work?

If a student is out of school for more than two days, please contact the counselor and he/she can get the work to you within 24 hours. Students can also use a “buddy system” by contacting a friend in each class who can collect missed assignments. Students are also encouraged to check course syllabi on Synergy.

How important is attendance?

Attendance is very important. Students not only learn from in person instruction but also from the information discussed in class as well as the collaborative activities performed in the learning environment. A student who misses more than nine days in a class will fail the class regardless of his/her grade. Appeals can be made to the Extenuating Circumstances Committee by submitting written documentation (doctors’ notes, legal notices, etc.) and an application at the end of the semester. The Extenuating Circumstances Committee will determine whether extenuating circumstances will be granted.

What is the difference between an unexcused absence and an excused absence?

An unexcused absence is an absence where the student has cut or skipped the class. Work missed from an unexcused absence cannot be made up. Unexcused and excused absences *both* count toward the nine-day limit; consequently, teachers will send home absence notifications when a student has missed more than five days. These notifications include both excused and unexcused absences. School field trips do not count toward the nine-day limit.

How will the Standards of Learning (SOL’s) affect my child?

All students have to pass a certain number of SOL tests to graduate from high school. For the majority of our current students, they have to pass 1 Math, 1 Science, 1 History, and both the English 11 Reading and Writing SOL’s. All high school students need to take one math SOL test in high school, and ALL students need to take the Biology SOL test in high school for accreditation purposes.

What are the graduation requirements?

For the Standard (22 credit) diploma: 4 credits of English, 3 credits of history, 3 credits of math (at or above Algebra), 3 credits of science, 2 credits of P.E., 1 credit of a fine/practical arts class, 2 sequential electives and 4 other electives.

For the advanced studies (26 credit) diploma, students must pass: 4 credits of English, 4 credits of math (including Algebra II), 4 credits of science, 3 credits of one foreign language or 2 credits of one language and 2 of another language, 4 credits of history, 2 credits of P.E., 1 fine/practical arts credit, and 2 sequential electives.

Both require an additional Economics/Personal Finance class.

My child wants to go to college. What classes should he/she take? Are there scholarships?

Students should take at least five core classes each year (English, math, science, history, and usually a foreign language). Honors, Dual Enrollment, and Advanced Placement classes are also recommended for some students, but primarily good grades in regular or advanced classes are essential for gaining entrance into college. SAT scores, extra-curricular involvement, leadership positions, and recommendations are also considered. Scholarships are usually awarded to students who excel in one or more of the above areas.

When should my child take the SAT’s, ACT’s, and the PSAT’s?

Students should take the PSAT in October of their junior year because those scores can qualify them for National Merit Scholarships; however, they may take the test earlier. The PSAT will be given on October 13 at Indian River High School. Registration will take place with the School Counselors September 13-Oct. 6. The cost is \$18 for 9th and 11th graders. Sophomores can take the test for free. The SAT’s and ACT’s are normally taken in the spring of 11th grade and the fall of the senior year. Visit www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org for more information..

If I have moved recently or plan to move, do I need to let the school know?

Yes. Address changes need to be documented with a current utility bill (water, gas, or electric only) that shows your name, address and bill. Please make sure you update your current phone number(s) as well.

If I need to pick up my child from school during the day, what do I need to do?

Please come into the school and check out your son/daughter with the attendance secretary, Ms. Williams, across from the main office. If you send a note in with your child and he/she gives it to the attendance secretary before school, she will give the student a pass to meet you in the main office at the time of pick up. No students will be allowed to check out early after 3:30pm.

What sports are available at IRHS?

Boys:

- Fall Season (Cross Country, Football, Golf, Volleyball, Cheerleading);
- Winter Season (Basketball, Wrestling, Swimming, Winter Track, Cheerleading);
- Spring Season (Baseball, Soccer, Track, Tennis)

Girls:

- Fall Season (Cross Country, Field Hockey, Volleyball, Cheerleading, Golf);
- Winter Season (Basketball, Gymnastics, Swimming, Winter Track, Cheerleading);
- Spring Season (Tennis, Softball, Soccer, Track)

Typically, the Winter Season starts around November 1, and the Spring Season starts the middle of February. Athletes need to get a physical prior to the starting times.

What is the 2.0 eligibility rule?

Students must have a 2.0 cumulative high school grade point average or a 2.0 GPA for the previous semester in order to be eligible to play high school sports. Ninth graders need to have a 2.0 for their 8th grade year or a 2.0 for the 2nd semester of their 8th grade year to play sports in the first semester of their 9th grade year. Students must also pass three classes the previous semester and be enrolled in three credit bearing classes the current semester to be eligible for sports. As of August 2021, Chesapeake will NOT use the 2.0 rule for first semester athletes. For more information about second semester of the 2021-2022 school year, stay in touch with your student’s coach or the athletic director, Mr. Kirt Overton. He can be reached at kirt.overton@cpschools.com

What is the grading scale?

	A	93-100	A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D+	67-69	D	64-66		
		E	0-63		

For more information, please visit to the Chesapeake Public School web page.

How does my child obtain a worker’s permit?

Students who are 14 or 15 years old and wish to work must obtain a worker’s permit from www.doli.virginia.gov/laborlaw/laborlaw_forms_p2.html

When can my child drive?

Students who are the proper age can receive their learner’s permit from DMV by taking their social security card, birth certificate, and a parent/guardian to DMV. Your child must pass the written test. Free booklets are

available at DMV. Driver's Education (classroom only) is taught through the PE II classes (not the CVA online PE II classes).

Do students still take final exams in high school?

For the 2021-2022 school year, final exams will be opt in for students. Students may choose to take the final exam, but if the final exam grade lowers the final grade, the final exam grade will not be used.

Where can I find the most comprehensive information regarding graduation requirements, Chesapeake class offerings and other curriculum based questions?

For the 2021-2022 Chesapeake Secondary School Catalog, please click [High School Course Catalog 2021-2022 \(cpschools.com\)](https://cpschools.com) Please note that not all high schools offer all classes listed in this book.

My child is taking CVA online classes this year. How does this work?

Chesapeake Virtual Academy (CVA) – CVA classes are the Chesapeake online classes taught by Chesapeake teachers. CVA classes are asynchronous, meaning there is no daily, live instruction. Teachers are available to meet with students twice a week for small group and one-on-one support. These classes are noted on the included schedule under Concurrent Classes and will have CVA in the class name. Students will receive an email at their CPS Google account from the CVA teacher on the first day of school, September 7, 2021, with class instructions. If there are any concerns about CVA classes the student or parent should complete the google form <https://forms.gle/KdcmoMMSsPFd1jQLA>

My student requested a chromebook. When will he/she get one?

IRHS will issue chromebooks at Freshmen Fusion and the 10th grade orientations on August 23 and 24. New 11th and 12th graders can also receive their Chromebooks at the 1:00 orientation on August 24 if they attend. All other students and those who don't attend the events listed above will receive their Chromebooks during school the first week of school.

My child is registered for a Dual Enrollment class. When does he/she pay for the class?

The online payment process for Dual Enrollment (DE) is now available on the IRHS website. Click on "Online Payments" and then click on use the Online School Payments system. From there, select your DE course (i.e., DE College Comp, DE, Teachers for Tomorrow, DE US History). The deadline to pay for the first semester DE course is **August 31st**.

Students who are taking a DE course through the **Chesapeake Career Center (CCC)** are advised to make tuition payments online using the following link: <https://osp.osmsinc.com/ChesapeakeVA/BVModules/CategoryTemplates/Detailed%20List%20with%20Properties/Category.aspx?categoryid=DD001> or contact the CCC bookkeeper, Grace Fager (Grace.Fager@cpschools.com), for specific questions or to make arrangements to pay the tuition in person at CCC.

We are completely new to IRHS. Is there a tour we can take?

We are not doing tours at this time, but there will be new student orientations for all 9th graders on August 23 and for all 10th graders on August 24 from 9am (start time) – 1pm (end time) each day. Newly enrolled juniors and seniors can also attend an orientation on August 24 from 1-2pm. There will also be a welcome orientation for parents/guardians on Tuesday, August 31 at 6:00 pm in the school's auditorium. This is a 1 hour session targeting the parents/guardians of current 9th and 10th grade students and parents/guardians of any new students to IRHS this year. All IRHS parents/guardians are welcome to attend. This session will be conducted by Administration and Guidance to talk about IRHS and expectations for the year. Any 9th or 10th grade student who missed their orientations on August 23 or 24 are welcome to come as well.

Masks

In accordance with the August 12, 2021 governmental mandate - [PHE-Order_K-12-8-12-2021.pdf](#) ([virginia.gov](#)) -, **Chesapeake Public Schools will require students, staff, and visitors to wear a mask when indoors at all schools, effective immediately.** Alternatives and reasonable accommodations will be considered for anyone who is unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition, disability, or for religious reasons. More information will be provided about this process at a later date.